

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



A Monthly Report by the NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Prepared in Coordination with the UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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Unemployment Rate Drops to 2.7% in March, Up Only 0.1% from Year Ago.

The New Hampshire unemployment rate dropped slightly to 2.7 percent in March. This represents a 0.1 percent decline from the 2.8 percent rate observed in February, and an increase of 0.1 percent from the 2.6 percent level in March 1988. Compared to February levels, the civilian labor force in March grew by 2,220 workers. Unemployment over the month declined by 540 workers, and employment expanded by 2,760. The decline in unemployment combined with the increase in both employment and the labor force over the month caused the unemployment rate to drop slightly. Estimates of March wage and salary employment indicated minor decreases in manufacturing employment (-250), as well as continued seasonal drops in trade (-300). Construction employment was estimated to rise slightly (+400) over the month.

The New Hampshire civilian labor force in March 1989 was estimated to be 16,820 above the level twelve months earlier. The number of unemployed workers has increased 1,410 over the same period.

Most labor market areas in New Hampshire showed little change in unemployment rates from February to March. Six labor market areas registered lower unemployment rates in March than in February, four areas experienced increases, and two areas remained the same. The largest percentage point changes were in the Berlin Labor Market Area (LMA), up 0.4 percentage points to 2.8 percent, and the Salem area, which is the New Hampshire portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA), down 0.6 percentage points to 3.6 percent. Compared to a year earlier, four areas had lower unemployment rates, while eight areas had higher unemployment rates. Most changes were relatively minor.

February Unemployment Rate Lowest in Nation

New Hampshire in February again registered the lowest unemployment rate in the nation. The New Hampshire rate was 2.8 percent, followed by Nebraska at 3.1 percent. Unemployment rates in other New England states ranged from 3.5 percent for both Vermont and Connecticut to 4.6 percent for Maine. The highest unemployment rates nationally were reported for Louisiana at 11.7 percent and Alaska at 10.1 percent.

Employment Trends in New Hampshire

According to sample-based estimates, nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 550 from January to February. Manufacturing employment was estimated to have declined 250 over the month, the result of minor and mixed changes in both the durable goods (-200) and nondurable goods (-50) sectors. This was offset by an increase of 800 in nonmanufacturing employment. Within nonmanufacturing groups, government increased by 650 over the month, spurred by an estimated 700 employment increase in the local government sector. Construction gained an estimated 400 employees over February, while the wholesale and retail trade industries declined by 300 employees.

Comparing March 1989 levels to figures for March 1988, nonagricultural employment has increased by an estimated 11,150 workers. The vast majority of this increase has been concentrated in the nonmanufacturing sector. Manufacturing employment has increased by about 650 workers, while the other 10,500 workers were in nonmanufacturing industries. There have been, however, major shifts within the nonmanufacturing sector. Construction employment is estimated to be about 2,350 workers lower than twelve months earlier, while trade (+4,200) and services (+4,450) have apparently continued to expand.

(For more detailed changes from one-month and twelve-months earlier, please refer to the table on page 4.)

Unemployment in New Hampshire declined from 17,270 in February to 16,730 in March. A year earlier, for March 1988, unemployment was estimated to be 15,320.

Keene and Claremont Areas Lowest in Unemployment Rate

The lowest area unemployment rate in March was calculated for the Keene Labor Market Area (LMA) (1.5 percent). The Claremont LMA followed next (2.0 percent). Highest rates were found in the Unattached Estimating Area (4.6 percent) and the New Hampshire portion of the Lowell, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA), consisting of Pelham (4.3 percent).

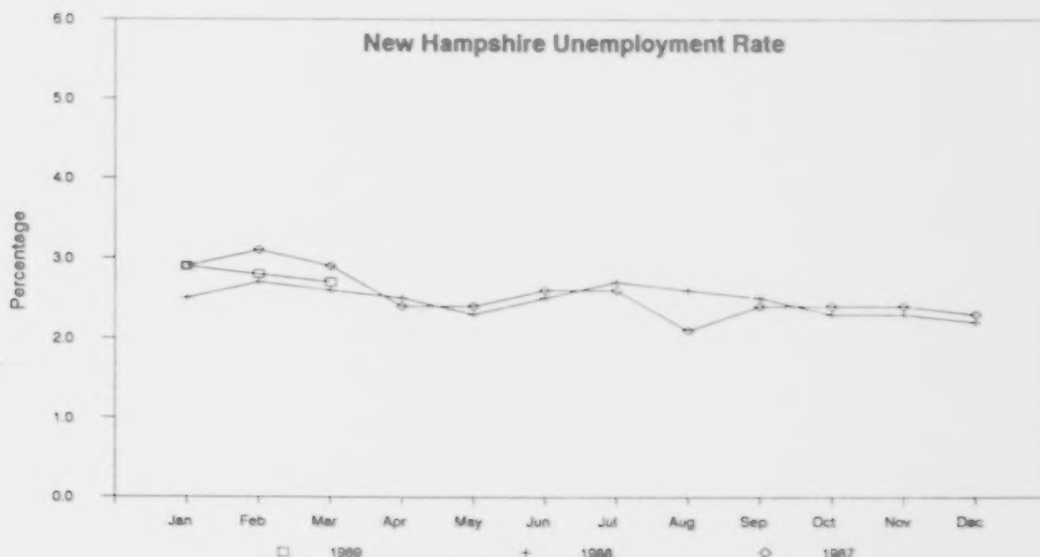
Manufacturing Sector Average Weekly Hours and Average Hourly Earnings Rise Slightly; Average Weekly Earnings Up Modestly.

Average weekly earnings rose slightly (+\$4.72) for manufacturing production workers from February to March. Average hourly earnings were \$0.09 higher in March, and average weekly hours rose from 41.2 to 41.3 hours. Compared to a year earlier, average hourly earnings have increased by \$0.58, average weekly hours have increased by 0.5 hours, and average weekly earnings have increased by \$28.70.

Average hourly earnings were estimated to be highest in the Food and Kindred Products industry (\$11.36) in the nondurable goods sector. Average weekly earnings were highest in the Paper and Allied Products Industry (\$486.18), also in the nondurable goods sector. Average weekly hours were greatest in the Primary Metal Products industry (45.2) in the durable goods sector.

Notes: These unemployment rates were calculated using the new methodology adopted in January 1989. They are not directly comparable to monthly rates published prior to that time.

Although monthly changes are included in this publication, it should be noted that these figures are not seasonally adjusted. Over-the-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal changes and thus could present misleading representation of underlying trends. To eliminate bias, it is more useful to compare any non-seasonally-adjusted statistic with that of twelve months earlier.



TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY AREA AND COUNTY

	UNEMPLOYMENT								CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE				
	March 1989		February 1989		March 1988		Numerical Change From Previous:		March 1989	February 1989	March 1988	Numerical Change From Previous:	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Month	Year				Month	Year
United States**	6,378	5.2	6,883	5.6	7,090	5.9	(505)	(712)	122,223	121,906	119,957	317	2,266
New Hampshire	16,730	2.7	17,270	2.8	15,320	2.6	(540)	1,410	610,390	608,170	593,570	2,220	16,820
Berlin LMA	750	2.8	650	2.4	700	2.7	100	50	26,650	26,630	25,760	20	890
Claremont LMA	820	2.0	750	1.8	1,270	3.1	70	(450)	42,030	42,140	40,940	(110)	1,090
Concord LMA	1,490	2.7	1,530	2.8	1,240	2.4	(40)	250	54,690	54,280	51,700	410	2,990
Keene LMA	650	1.5	760	1.8	750	1.8	(110)	(100)	42,940	42,960	41,030	(20)	1,910
Laconia LMA	1,630	3.0	1,700	3.1	1,250	2.4	(70)	380	55,170	54,970	51,930	200	3,240
Littleton LMA	610	3.1	610	3.0	470	2.5	0	140	19,770	20,050	19,020	(280)	750
Manchester MSA	2,110	2.5	2,360	2.8	1,900	2.2	(250)	210	85,590	85,230	85,140	360	450
Nashua PMSA	2,970	3.0	2,830	2.8	2,380	2.4	140	590	100,630	100,080	100,030	550	600
NH portion Lawrence-Haverhill, Ma PMSA***	1,870	3.6	2,210	4.2	2,060	3.9	(340)	(190)	52,440	52,120	52,310	390	790
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester NH+Me MSA	3,140	2.4	3,330	2.5	2,800	2.2	(190)	340	133,160	133,120	128,640	40	4,520
Unattached Estimating Area	990	4.6	970	4.6	790	3.8	20	200	21,350	20,960	20,560	390	790
NH portion Lowell Ma PMSA	240	4.3	240	4.3	270	5.0	0	(30)	5,520	5,520	5,390	0	130
Counties													
Belknap	810	2.8	870	3.1	620	2.3	(60)	190	28,470	28,390	26,810	80	1,660
Carroll	600	3.1	560	2.9	390	2.1	40	210	19,420	19,350	18,440	70	980
Cheshire	560	1.5	670	1.8	710	1.9	(110)	(150)	38,250	38,280	36,610	(30)	1,640
Coos	630	3.0	590	2.8	650	3.2	40	(20)	20,850	20,920	20,220	(70)	630
Grafton	1,070	2.5	1,040	2.4	840	2.0	30	230	43,230	43,440	41,330	(210)	1,900
Hillsborough	5,280	2.8	5,330	2.9	4,410	2.4	(50)	870	187,410	186,380	185,460	1,030	1,950
Merrimack	1,680	2.6	1,800	2.8	1,460	2.3	(120)	220	65,500	65,160	62,390	340	3,110
Rockingham	4,040	3.2	4,400	3.5	3,950	3.2	(360)	90	126,280	125,510	123,870	770	2,410
Strafford	1,560	2.6	1,580	2.7	1,320	2.3	(20)	240	59,490	59,230	57,260	260	2,230
Sullivan	500	2.3	430	2.0	970	4.6	70	(470)	21,490	21,510	21,180	(20)	310

* NH estimates based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 step handbook method" adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.

** In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.

*** New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT
AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT AS OF THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH**

	Number of Workers			Numerical Change *	
	March 1989	February 1989	March 1988	From Previous: Month	Year
Labor Force Data **					
Civilian Labor Force	610,390	608,170	593,570	2,220	16,820
Unemployment	16,730	17,270	15,320	(540)	1,410
Percent of Labor Force	2.7	2.8	2.6	----	----
Employment Total	593,660	590,900	578,250	2,760	15,410
Persons Involved in Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0	0
Employment by Industry ***					
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT	527,100	526,550	515,950	550	11,150
MANUFACTURING	119,150	119,400	118,500	(250)	650
Durable Goods	83,200	83,400	82,700	(200)	500
Lumber and wood products	5,650	5,750	5,800	(100)	(150)
Furniture and fixtures	1,400	1,400	1,600	0	(200)
Stone and clay products	3,400	3,400	3,450	0	(50)
Primary metal products	4,600	4,600	4,600	0	0
Fabricated metal products	7,050	7,100	6,800	(50)	250
Machinery (except electrical)	26,250	26,200	25,500	50	750
Electrical products	22,800	23,000	23,000	(200)	(200)
Miscellaneous products	2,300	2,300	2,250	0	50
Other durable goods	9,750	9,650	9,700	100	50
Nondurable Goods	35,950	36,000	35,800	(50)	150
Food and kindred products	2,800	2,850	2,800	(50)	0
Textile mill products	3,600	3,600	3,600	0	0
Apparel	1,800	1,750	1,800	50	0
Paper and allied products	5,700	5,750	5,650	(50)	50
Printing, publishing, and allied	8,800	8,700	8,700	100	100
Leather and leather products	3,200	3,200	3,400	0	(200)
Other nondurable goods	10,050	10,150	9,850	(100)	200
NONMANUFACTURING	407,950	407,150	397,450	800	10,500
Construction (including mining)	30,550	30,150	32,900	400	(2,350)
Transportation, communication, and utilities	17,650	17,700	17,750	(50)	(100)
Trade	134,600	134,900	130,400	(300)	4,200
Finance, insurance, and real estate	32,250	32,100	31,700	150	550
Service industry and other	120,100	120,150	115,650	(50)	4,450
Government	72,800	72,150	69,050	650	3,750
Federal	8,650	8,700	8,500	(50)	150
State	19,400	19,400	18,000	0	1,400
Local	44,750	44,050	42,550	700	2,200
Persons involved in labor disputes	0	0	0	0	0
(not included in Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Total above)					

* Numbers in parentheses indicate negative numbers

** By place of residence

*** By place of establishment, March 1988 benchmark

MSA LABOR FORCE, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT, AND NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT AS OF THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH

	Manchester MSA				Nashua PMSA				Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA						
	Number of Workers			Numerical Change* From Previous Month	Number of Workers			Numerical Change* From Previous Month	Number of Workers			Numerical Change* From Previous Month			
	February 1989	January 1989	February 1988		February 1989	January 1989	February 1988		February 1989	January 1989	February 1988				
Labor Force Data**															
1. Civilian Labor Force	85,590	85,230	85,140	360	450	100,630	100,080	100,030	550	600	133,160	133,120	128,640	40	4,520
2. Unemployment	2,110	2,360	1,900	(250)	210	2,970	2,830	2,380	140	590	3,140	3,330	2,800	(190)	340
Percentage of Labor Force	2.5	2.8	2.2	----	----	3.0	2.8	2.4	----	----	2.4	2.5	2.2	----	----
3. Employment Total	83,480	82,870	83,240	610	240	97,660	97,250	97,650	410	10	130,020	129,790	125,840	230	4,180
4. Persons Involved in Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Employment by Industry***															
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT															
	85,150	84,850	85,350	300	(200)	94,800	94,700	94,850	100	(50)	110,900	110,800	107,800	100	3,100
MANUFACTURING															
Durable Goods	11,600	11,650	12,400	(50)	(800)	36,400	36,400	36,300	0	100	20,950	21,000	20,750	(50)	200
Machinery and electrical products	7,000	7,000	7,800	0	(800)	30,300	30,250	29,900	50	400	12,850	12,850	12,750	0	100
Other durable goods	3,900	3,900	4,500	0	(600)	22,900	22,900	22,300	0	600					
	3,100	3,100	3,300	0	(200)	7,400	7,350	7,600	50	(200)					
Nondurable Goods	4,600	4,650	4,600	(50)	0	6,100	6,150	6,400	(50)	(300)	8,100	8,150	8,000	(50)	100
Textile mill products	1,100	1,100	1,200	0	(100)										
Other nondurable goods	3,500	3,550	3,400	(50)	100										
NONMANUFACTURING															
Construction (including mining)	73,550	73,200	72,950	350	600	58,400	58,300	58,550	100	(150)	89,950	89,800	87,050	150	2,900
Transportation, communication, and utilities	5,400	5,400	5,250	0	150	4,350	4,300	4,650	50	(300)	5,500	5,500	5,700	0	(200)
	5,500	5,500	5,250	0	250	2,600	2,650	2,500	(50)	100	3,000	3,050	2,900	(50)	100
Trade	23,600	23,600	23,600	0	0	21,650	21,750	22,450	(100)	(800)	28,450	28,400	26,800	50	1,650
Finance, insurance, and real estate	8,250	8,150	8,200	100	50	3,600	3,600	3,750	0	(150)	7,050	7,050	6,800	0	250
Service industry & other	21,850	21,650	21,900	200	(50)	18,950	18,800	18,050	150	900	19,850	20,050	19,200	(200)	650
Government	8,950	8,900	8,750	50	200	7,250	7,200	7,150	50	100	26,100	25,750	25,650	350	450
Federal	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0	900	900	900	0	0	10,850	10,800	10,550	50	300
State	800	800	750	0	50	200	200	250	0	(50)	5,450	5,350	5,400	100	50
Local	5,550	5,500	5,400	50	150	6,150	6,100	6,000	50	150	9,800	9,600	9,700	200	100
Persons involved in labor disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Not included in Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment above)															

* Numbers in parentheses indicate negative numbers

** By place of residence

*** By place of establishment, March 1988 benchmark

Manchester MSA - Includes the city of Manchester and the towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, and Hooksett.
Nashua PMSA - Includes the city of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Littleton, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton.
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA - Includes the New Hampshire cities of Dover, Portsmouth, Rochester, and Somersworth; the New Hampshire towns of Barrington, Durham, Exeter, Farmington, Greenland, Hampton, Lee, Madbury, Milford, New Castle, Needham, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Rollinsford, Rye, and Statham; and the Maine towns of Berwick, Eliot, Kennebunk, North Berwick, Ogunquit, South Berwick, Wells, and York.

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

(Establishment Survey estimates on this page are currently projected from March 1988 benchmark levels.)

Industry	NEW HAMPSHIRE								
	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	1989	1989	1988	1989	1989	1988	1989	1989	1988
All Manufacturing	\$415.48	\$410.76	\$386.78	41.3	41.2	40.8	\$10.06	\$9.97	\$9.48
Durable goods	427.01	419.38	394.83	41.7	41.4	41.0	10.24	10.13	9.63
Lumber and wood products	323.29	331.88	309.42	37.9	37.5	38.2	8.53	8.85	8.10
Furniture and fixtures	314.42	314.61	296.84	39.8	40.7	41.0	7.90	7.73	7.24
Stone and clay products	392.54	376.38	367.63	42.3	41.0	41.4	9.28	9.18	8.88
Primary metal products	457.83	475.48	464.99	45.2	45.5	47.4	10.13	10.45	9.81
Fabricated metal products	434.70	436.48	407.15	42.0	42.5	42.5	10.35	10.27	9.58
Machinery (except electrical)	453.96	454.83	423.04	43.4	43.4	43.3	10.46	10.48	9.77
Electrical products	452.10	423.15	393.68	41.1	40.3	38.0	11.00	10.50	10.36
Miscellaneous products	349.27	347.06	336.17	39.6	39.8	40.6	8.82	8.72	8.28
Other durable goods	406.40	406.40	399.02	40.0	40.0	40.8	10.16	10.16	9.78
Nondurable goods	391.23	391.94	369.26	40.5	40.7	40.4	9.66	9.63	9.14
Food and kindred products	471.44	505.26	406.67	41.5	40.1	37.9	11.36	12.60	10.73
Textile mill products	333.74	327.64	324.00	40.9	40.3	40.5	8.16	8.13	8.00
Apparel	254.25	258.00	219.02	37.5	37.5	33.8	6.78	6.88	6.48
Paper and allied products	486.18	482.74	516.91	45.1	45.2	48.4	10.78	10.68	10.68
Printing, publishing, and allied	422.08	430.52	383.18	39.3	39.9	39.3	10.74	10.79	9.75
Leather and leather products	203.46	214.11	196.56	33.3	35.1	33.6	6.11	6.10	5.85
Footwear	199.98	212.19	197.05	33.0	34.9	33.8	6.06	6.08	5.83
Other nondurable goods	410.85	400.32	395.96	41.5	41.7	41.9	9.90	9.60	9.45

Sample Percent of
Production Workers:
37.7%

Total Production
Workers: 81,650

Firms Reporting: 286

Industry	Manchester MSA								
	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	1989	1989	1988	1989	1989	1988	1989	1989	1988
All Manufacturing	\$410.17	\$406.82	\$395.01	39.9	40.2	39.9	\$10.28	\$10.12	\$9.90
Durable goods	415.79	411.29	399.60	39.3	39.7	39.1	10.58	10.36	10.22
Machinery and electrical products	431.33	421.27	409.02	40.5	40.9	40.1	10.65	10.30	10.20
Other durable goods	394.42	399.19	386.05	37.6	38.2	37.7	10.49	10.45	10.24
Nondurable goods	402.21	397.96	386.16	41.0	40.9	41.3	9.81	9.73	9.35
Textiles and apparel	353.20	338.18	301.86	41.7	40.5	38.8	8.47	8.35	7.78
Other nondurable goods	417.58	417.99	416.09	40.7	41.1	42.2	10.26	10.17	9.86

Sample Percent of
Production Workers:
58.1%

Total Production
Workers: 8,900

Firms Reporting: 39

Industry	Nashua PMSA								
	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	1989	1989	1988	1989	1989	1988	1989	1989	1988
All Manufacturing	\$488.03	\$485.28	\$462.51	40.4	41.3	40.5	\$12.08	\$11.75	\$11.42
Durable goods	495.64	484.16	480.05	40.1	41.1	41.1	12.36	11.78	11.68
Machinery and electrical products	536.50	512.86	510.66	39.8	40.8	40.4	13.48	12.57	12.64
Other durable goods	404.56	419.50	409.07	40.7	41.7	42.7	9.94	10.06	9.58
Nondurable goods	456.23	489.30	399.09	41.4	42.0	38.3	11.02	11.65	10.42

Sample Percent of
Production Workers:
33.3%

Total Production
Workers: 19,950

Firms Reporting: 45

Industry	Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA								
	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	1989	1989	1988	1989	1989	1988	1989	1989	1988
All Manufacturing	\$401.44	\$391.53	\$379.76	41.3	40.7	41.1	\$9.72	\$9.62	\$9.24
Durable goods	427.66	418.80	404.50	41.4	40.7	40.9	10.33	10.29	9.89
Nondurable goods	363.38	351.65	342.38	41.2	40.7	41.3	8.82	8.64	8.29

Sample Percent of
Production Workers:
38.3%

Total Production
Workers: 14,900

Firms Reporting: 30

New Hampshire Labor Supply and Demand

The number of active applicants went from 16,500 in February to 16,700 in March, compared to the much lower levels of 10,400 and 10,350 for the same two months last year. The number of job openings received climbed to 1,131 in March from 942 in February, while a year ago the count went from 1,193 in February to 2,173 in March. Comparing March 1988 (5 active applicants to 1 job opening) to March 1989 (15 active applicants to 1 job opening) indicates there may be a slowing of the economy. Even though the New Hampshire economy is ahead of many states in terms of economic growth, it is slowing down compared to its own recent growth. Manufacturing experienced a loss of employment between 1985 and 1986 and between 1986 and 1987 while nonmanufacturing increased in employment by 9.5 percent between 1985 and 1986, but by only 6.5 percent between 1986 and 1987.

A low unemployment rate means very few people are out of work, but it also means very little new work is being generated. The shortage of workers and the lack of housing for new workers who might be willing to move to the state has hurt industrial growth. Also the future cost and availability of electricity has recently become a concern. The future of the Seabrook nuclear power plant has been a contributing factor in this uncertainty and along with the need for more workers has caused New Hampshire to lose some of the edge it enjoyed in manufacturing and exporting. The nation as a whole has continued to buy foreign goods at a brisk rate. This high consumption of goods and a lessening rate of production has deepened the trade deficit. The weak 2 percent growth of the gross national product in the fourth quarter of 1988 means inflation will probably not be a concern for the immediate future, but the slowing of exports will be detrimental to overall growth and will cause the national debt to increase further, at a time when we need it to decrease.

Increases of over 100 active applicants were posted for professional, technical and managerial

(2,527 in February to 2,634 in March) and clerical (2,595 in February to 2,712 in March) between February and March, while for the same period the number of structural active applicants (4,354 in February to 4,169 in March) and motor freight and transportation applicants (972 in February to 838 in March) decreased. Nashua (+34), Salem (+29) and Keene (+27) had the most significant increases in the number of clerical active applicants. Structural active applicants decreased by 185 (4,354 in February to 4,169 in March 1989) while a year ago the decrease was 253 (2,491 in February to 2,238 in March). Packaging and material handling had 22 fewer active applicants in March than in February with Keene reporting 14 fewer applicants in that industry. Motor freight and transportation had 21 fewer applicants, with Manchester posting a decrease of 28.

Job openings received returned to the December - January level of 1,100+, with structural work (+87) gaining the most new openings. Farm (+39), clerical (+37), and packaging and material handling (+32) all received over 30 new job openings in March while professional, technical and managerial (+29), sales (+28), and benchwork (+23) received an increase of 20 or more.

Farm occupations (-39) and services (-20) were the only groups reporting a decrease in job openings received. The increase in the number of job openings received has changed the ratio of active applicants to job openings received from 18:1 in February to 15:1 in March, which is an improvement over the previous month in terms of the availability of jobs, but is still well above last year's rate of five active applicants to one job opening received.

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ACTIVE APPLICANTS BY OCCUPATION, MARCH 1989

Area	Professional, Technical, & Managerial	Clerical	Sales	Services	Farm	Processing	Machine Trades	Benchwork	Structural Work	Freight & Trans- portation	Packaging & Material Handling	Miscel- lanous	Total
New Hampshire	2,634	2,721	798	1,925	204	182	1,151	969	4,169	951	838	162	16,704
Berlin	39	93	31	103	3	2	23	24	163	33	24	2	540
Claremont	75	99	21	85	5	8	67	40	117	34	44	7	602
Concord	340	243	62	140	20	12	118	79	340	86	56	14	1,510
Conway	31	57	12	42	4	1	14	13	91	25	10	0	300
Dover	322	391	98	228	22	40	165	148	693	124	71	11	2,313
Keene	138	172	67	162	18	4	99	42	213	47	58	9	1,029
Laconia	198	274	71	182	27	22	110	54	590	124	57	10	1,719
Lebanon	102	79	34	61	12	4	39	18	110	26	13	1	499
Littleton	62	114	19	115	20	5	43	48	193	48	24	5	696
Manchester	284	391	136	378	18	31	165	158	610	146	197	70	2,584
Nashua	479	389	111	167	22	29	171	233	437	128	159	22	2,347
Portsmouth	365	278	86	208	24	18	87	59	429	67	96	9	1,726
Salem	199	141	50	54	9	6	50	53	183	63	29	2	839

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table A96

JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED BY OCCUPATION, MARCH 1989

Area	Professional, Technical, & Managerial	Clerical	Sales	Services	Farm	Processing	Machine Trades	Benchwork	Structural Work	Motor Freight & Trans- portation	Packaging & Material Handling	Miscel- lanous	Total
New Hampshire	123	221	79	142	52	20	115	76	182	42	65	14	1,131
Berlin	2	5	4	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	21
Claremont	6	15	6	2	1	1	21	12	7	3	10	0	84
Concord	2	24	1	6	2	0	14	1	23	4	0	1	78
Conway	1	3	1	5	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	17
Dover	24	23	3	16	8	4	21	6	34	3	9	2	153
Keene	5	16	4	15	2	1	10	5	20	4	3	0	85
Laconia	13	18	8	9	4	0	5	4	18	4	1	0	84
Lebanon	5	8	3	9	0	1	2	4	4	7	1	0	44
Littleton	6	10	7	21	2	2	16	8	15	2	8	0	97
Manchester	10	38	19	24	0	9	4	20	15	6	8	11	164
Nashua	4	25	7	7	0	2	5	9	4	2	3	0	68
Portsmouth	12	28	7	20	2	0	12	1	35	4	14	0	135
Salem	2	7	9	4	0	0	1	5	4	2	2	0	36
All Others	31	1	0	0	30	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	65

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table 10

ACTIVE APPLICANTS BY SEX, AGE, MINORITY STATUS, AND VETERAN STATUS, MARCH 1989

Area	Male	Female	Eligible Claimants	Minority	Veterans	Age < 45	Age > 45	Total Active Applicants	Unfilled Openings: Total	Unfilled Openings: 30 Days+
New Hampshire	10,872	5,832	8,079	523	3,456	13,590	3,114	16,704	1,255	763
Berlin	318	222	209	7	47	454	86	540	30	16
Claremont	378	224	153	9	118	509	93	602	69	34
Concord	1,003	507	649	26	364	1,221	289	1,510	77	38
Conway	202	98	168	4	48	232	68	300	11	1
Dover	1,532	781	1,224	43	558	1,935	378	2,313	95	33
Keene	655	374	341	12	243	830	199	1,029	105	64
Laconia	1,190	529	1,051	15	292	1,403	316	1,719	74	45
Lebanon	343	156	226	13	104	401	98	499	15	4
Littleton	411	285	239	5	116	557	139	696	64	22
Manchester	1,652	932	1,098	146	531	2,131	453	2,584	126	52
Nashua	1,513	834	1,476	161	469	1,852	495	2,347	81	49
Portsmouth	1,142	584	735	54	403	1,400	326	1,726	131	74
Salem	533	306	510	28	163	665	174	839	79	65
All Others									298	266

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table A96

JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED BY INDUSTRY, MARCH 1989

Area	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Construction & Mining	Manufacturing	Transportation, Communication & Utilities	Trade	Finance Insurance, Real Estate	Services	Public Administration	Total	Government Openings in Columns 1-8*
New Hampshire	25	122	339	21	217	71	281	55	1,131	111
Berlin	0	3	4	2	6	2	4	0	21	1
Claremont	0	6	46	1	14	5	10	2	84	6
Concord	0	21	14	0	12	2	15	14	78	13
Conway	0	2	1	0	6	1	7	0	17	0
Dover	3	12	59	1	23	4	42	9	153	52
Keene	2	10	16	2	29	9	17	0	85	3
Laconia	4	11	15	0	18	8	24	4	84	5
Lebanon	0	2	6	2	15	0	18	1	44	1
Littleton	0	13	38	1	17	5	20	3	97	3
Manchester	0	14	44	6	23	23	46	8	164	2
Nashua	0	6	29	3	16	2	12	0	68	0
Portsmouth	5	21	28	3	28	9	33	8	135	19
Salem	0	1	13	0	9	0	12	1	36	1
All Others	11	0	26	0	1	1	21	5	65	5

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table 10

* This column includes Job Openings received from government-owned-and-operated employers in all types of industries. It consists of numbers that are included in the first eight columns.

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MARCH 1989

	1989	1988	1987	1986
1982-84=100				
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)				
February Index	122.3	116.5	112.1	108.8
Percent Change From Previous March	5.0	3.9	3.0	2.3
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)				
February Index	120.8	115.1	111.0	107.9
Percent Change From Previous March	5.0	3.7	2.9	1.9
1967=100				
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)				
February Index	366.2	349.0	335.9	326.0
Percent Change From Previous March	4.9	3.9	3.0	2.3
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)				
February Index	360.0	343.0	330.5	321.4
Percent Change From Previous March	5.0	3.8	2.8	1.9

MARCH CPI INDEXES BY CATEGORY

(1982-84=100, except where otherwise noted)

Categories	CPI-U March Index	Percent Change from:		CPI-W March Index
		March 1988	February 1989	
All Items	122.3	5.0	0.6	120.8
All Items (1967=100)	366.2	4.9	0.6	360.0
Food and Beverages	123.3	6.3	0.5	123.1
Housing	121.5	3.8	0.3	119.6
Apparel and Upkeep	119.3	4.4	3.5	118.4
Transportation	111.9	5.1	0.3	111.6
Medical Care	146.1	7.2	0.6	146.5
Entertainment	124.7	4.8	0.3	124.1
Other Goods and Services	144.4	7.3	0.2	144.0

YEARLY CHANGES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS

(1982-84 = 100)

	1988	1987	1986
Average CPI-U Level for Year:	118.3	113.6	109.6
Percent Change from Previous Year Average:	4.1%	3.6%	1.9%
December CPI-U Level for Year:	120.5	115.4	110.5
Percent Change from Previous December:	4.4%	4.4%	1.1%

Note: The CPI data on these tables is unadjusted for seasonal fluctuations.

Source: United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Notes of Interest:

Per Capita Personal Income figures for 1988 were recently released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U. S. Department of Commerce. Those estimates are reproduced below. The six states having the highest per capita income in 1988 repeated in the same order as in 1987. New Hampshire, which placed eighth in per capita income in 1987, rose to seventh place in 1988, replacing California in the order. Per capita personal income in New Hampshire was about 13% above the United States average in 1987, but rose to about 16% above the national average in 1988. The high ranking for the state is due in part to low unemployment rates and very high labor force participation rates. Even though average annual pay for workers in New Hampshire is lower than the average for the United States, the high proportion of people working and short duration of unemployment meant that per capita incomes were higher than average for the United States.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME -- 1988

Rank	State	Income	% of US Average	Rank	State	Income	% of US Average
1	Connecticut	\$22,761	138	26	Nebraska	\$15,184	92
2	New Jersey	21,882	133	27	Oregon	14,982	91
3	Massachusetts	20,701	126	28	Georgia	14,980	91
4	Alaska	19,514	119	29	Maine	14,976	91
5	Maryland	19,314	117	30	Arizona	14,887	91
6	New York	19,299	117	31	Iowa	14,764	90
7	NEW HAMPSHIRE	19,016	116	32	Indiana	14,721	90
8	California	18,855	115	33	Texas	14,640	89
9	Delaware	17,699	108	34	North Carolina	14,128	86
10	Virginia	17,640	107	35	Wyoming	13,718	83
11	Illinois	17,611	107	36	Tennessee	13,659	83
12	Nevada	17,440	106	37	Oklahoma	13,269	81
13	Hawaii	16,898	103	38	Kentucky	12,795	78
14	Rhode Island	16,793	102	39	South Carolina	12,764	78
15	Minnesota	16,787	102	40	North Dakota	12,720	77
16	Washington	16,569	101	41	Montana	12,670	77
17	Florida	16,546	101	42	Idaho	12,657	77
--	UNITED STATES	16,444	----	43	Alabama	12,604	77
18	Colorado	16,417	100	44	New Mexico	12,481	76
19	Michigan	16,387	100	45	South Dakota	12,475	76
20	Pennsylvania	16,168	98	46	Louisiana	12,193	74
21	Kansas	15,905	97	47	Arkansas	12,172	74
22	Missouri	15,492	94	48	Utah	12,013	73
23	Ohio	15,485	94	49	West Virginia	11,658	71
24	Wisconsin	15,444	94	50	Mississippi	10,992	67
25	Vermont	15,382	94				

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau
of Economic Analysis

**WEEKLY CLAIMS FILED DURING FEBRUARY
CLASSIFIED BY LOCAL OFFICE**

Area	U. C. Unemployment Compensation		State Workers (Only)		U. C. Local Government		Ex-Military Servicemen (UCX Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No U.I.	
	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims
All Offices	4,528	22,513	7	20	3	11	57	49	18	35
Berlin	224	838	1	1	0	0	3	2	0	4
Claremont	169	523	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
Concord	370	2,368	1	0	1	0	7	1	2	2
Conway	197	843	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Dover	602	2,966	1	3	1	0	13	1	8	9
Keene	205	745	0	1	0	7	3	3	0	1
Laconia	351	2,532	1	2	0	0	5	5	2	2
Lebanon	89	358	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Littleton	223	871	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0
Manchester	863	4,054	1	5	0	0	7	8	3	0
Nashua	509	2,523	0	1	0	0	5	7	0	2
Portsmouth	319	1,782	0	3	0	0	7	16	0	8
Salem	197	757	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	1
Liabile Interstate	210	1,353	0	2	0	0	2	3	2	3

The average payment for a week of total unemployment: \$127.16

The Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance at the End of the Month: \$186,477,690.69

Net contributions received during the month: \$83,213.98

Net benefits paid during the month: \$2,959,879.52

Interest Received: \$3,957,960.96